

**Voicemail transcript from Pete Kremen's phone, left by Jack Hovenier on July 27 at 9:17 a.m.**

"Hi Pete, good morning, this is Jack Hovenier. Listen, I'm calling to apologize that I didn't do a better job of communicating with you about the salary commission prior to bringing it up. It was the brainchild of conversations between Sam, Ken Mann and I and a few other council people and in truth the real goal of it was to get rid of the 15% limit to the Executive's salary for council people to get paid and there didn't seem to be any way to do that. I think \$20,000 a year for council is far too low and the only way I could see to make any kind of change to that was something like this. The reason I share the truth of that with you is I'd heard that in some way there was a thought that perhaps this could be used to negatively reflect on you and I need to tell you that if I'd even considered that I would have proposed this in a different year. You have been nothing but incredibly supportive to me and I owe more allegiance to you than anyone serving down there. So, I just wanted to communicate that, hopefully this passes. I was careful last night to say nothing about Executive salary and hopefully you win the county council seat and you make \$40,000 a year instead of \$20,000 a year. That would be my hope.

So if you want to talk about this ever my number is [ REDACTED \* ]. I apologize for my naïveté, I should have talked to you before, I apologize if in any way this could have been damaging to you at all because that was absolutely 100% not my intention. Any mistake I made was just due to my ignorance. So, that's it Pete, I hope you are well, I hope your campaign is good, I hope your blood pressure is good and thanks very much. Bye Bye."

\* REDACTED BY THE BELLINGHAM HERALD